

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides novel soft steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, pharmaceutical compositions containing said agents, and methods of administering same to mammals in the treatment of inflammation. Preferred compounds of the invention include haloalkyl 17 $\alpha$ -alkoxycarbonyloxy-11 $\beta$ -hydroxyandrost-4-en-3-one-17 $\beta$ -carboxylates and the corresponding  $\Delta^{1,4}$  compounds, optionally bearing 6 $\alpha$ - and/or 9 $\alpha$ -fluorine and 16 $\alpha$ - or 16 $\beta$ -methyl substituents. Especially preferred compounds include haloalkyl 17 $\alpha$ -alkoxycarbonyloxy-9 $\alpha$ -fluoro-11 $\beta$ -hydroxy-16-methylandrosta-1,4-dien-3-one-17 $\beta$ -carboxylates.